

RESPONSE

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 was amended by amendment received by the Office on the 22nd day of October, 2003. In a previous Office Action mailed November 20, 2002, the Examiner indicated that Claims 1 through 4 would be allowable if re-written to overcome the Section 112, second paragraph, rejections. Applicant has amended, by the aforementioned amendment, Claim 1 and respectfully submits that such claim is now in position for allowance. Claims 2 through 4 are dependent upon Claim 1 and Applicant submits that Claims 2 through 4 are therefore also now in position for allowance. In the same Office Action of November 20, 2002, the Examiner indicated that Claim 5 was allowable as filed. Applicant's Petition to Revive was granted and a copy of the Decision was mailed from the Office of Petitions on October 29, 2003.

Election

In response to the Office Action mailed on the 29th day of January, 2004, Application respectfully elects Group I, Claims 1 through 4.

All Claims to unelected Groups are hereby Cancelled without prejudice.

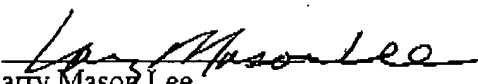
Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that his amendments have overcome the previous Section 112, second paragraph, rejections. The previously stated objections to Claims 1 through 4 by the Examiner have not been reiterated in light of the Applicant's amendment. Therefore, Applicant respectfully urges that Claims 1 through 4 are now in proper form and that such Claims define patentably over the known prior art. Applicant has elected the invention defined by the Group I Claims 1 through 4, and has cancelled unelected claims without prejudice. Therefore, Applicant

submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully solicited.

Applicant respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner in the event that this Response is perceived to be in anywise deficient or in the event that the Examiner believes that same may valuably clarify issues or move this application toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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